

# **Portsmouth School Committee Minutes**

**April 12, 2005**

## **Public Session**

**The meeting was called to order by Dr. Twaddle, at 7:00 PM. The following members were present:**

**Dr. Roy Twaddle, Chair**

**Mr. Terrence Kavanagh, V. Chair**

**Ms. Sylvia Wedge**

**Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk**

**Mr. Duncan Ingraham**

**Mrs. Terri Cortvriend**

**Ms. Karen Gleason**

**Also Present: Timothy Ryan, Colleen Jermain, Cynthia Brown, Rick Elmasian, Rick Updegrove, Patti Cofield, and Julia Beebe (PHS).**

### **1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Dr. Twaddle stated that he received a letter from Mr. William Hanlon of Heritage Drive regarding the Superintendent Selection Subcommittee. Dr. Twaddle passed it along to Mr. Ingraham. Dr. Twaddle stated that he received an opinion from Atty. Updegrove**

regarding the School Committee by-laws, which he passed along to Ms. Gleason.

a) **Rescheduling of Prudence Island Charter Review:** Dr. Twaddle stated that he hasn't been able to finalize the charter, as it is more comprehensive than he anticipated. He would like to proceed with the meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, on Prudence Island. Dr. Twaddle reiterated that the Prudence Island Subcommittee is an ad-hoc subcommittee that would last for seven to ten days. He suggested that the subcommittee get their work done as quickly as possible.

b) **Newsletter and Policy Issues:** Dr. Twaddle stated that Supt. Ryan asked him to review the newsletter and give his personal opinion. Ms. Gleason asked that the newsletter be put on the next agenda so the Committee could review it.

c) **Title IX and Athletic Programs:** Dr. Twaddle stated that the Committee did not deal with the Title IX issues when they approved the addition of boys' lacrosse at Portsmouth High School. He asked Supt. Ryan to look into it. Supt. Ryan reviewed the issue and came back with a good review of what the gender balance is. Dr. Twaddle stated that it looks appropriate at this time, and the Committee could ask Supt. Ryan to give a presentation on the issue at a future time.

Dr. Twaddle stated that Ms. Gleason submitted her resignation from

**the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee, and he has appointed Sylvia Wedge to the Subcommittee.**

## **2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Supt. Ryan stated that Mrs. Jermain and Mr. Wilkey attended a rally at the Statehouse on pension reform. He and Mrs. Jermain attended the ACE annual meeting at the Naval War College, as well as the annual RISSA meeting at Salve. Supt. Ryan and Mrs. Jermain attended the DARE graduation at Portsmouth Middle School, and he attended a forum at Portsmouth High School on the Governor's initiative to promote math and science within our State.**

**Miss Julia Beebe reported that a blood drive is being held at Portsmouth High School on Friday, April 15th, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**a) Teaching and Learning: Mrs. Jermain reported on recent activities in the math and science areas. The East Bay Educational Collaborative has recently established an East Bay curriculum in science for Grades K through 8 using the hands on science KITES kits. In late April or early May, a schedule will be established for training the middle school teachers on the new science kits. New state/federal mandated science testing will begin in 2008 for grades 4, 8, and high school juniors. It has been determined by curriculum**

review that more rigor is needed and required in math and science in order to prepare our students for this new testing and to meet present industry/career standards. Staff development is being set up for teachers, particularly at the middle school level to help better train teachers on how to implement hands on science and math instruction. Professional development in the area of literacy is on-going at the middle school level, as well. Many teachers at the middle school level have been participating in literacy initiatives and attending after school sessions for professional discussions and learning. Guidance is well underway with the new guidance reforms at all levels and just recently the entire guidance staff participated in data analysis computer training. Guidance counselors are learning the importance of data use and how information can provide indicators of student achievement and success. Mrs. Jermain also reported that we are looking at a possible ramp-up summer program in August with Raytheon and the schools to provide math programs prior to the start of the school year. We are looking at the possibility of having mini-courses in Microsoft Office at the high school, so students can opt out of the full-year course. Mrs. Jermain is reviewing the IEP process and what is going on in Special Education, mainstreaming, and possible over-identification of special needs students due to literacy issues rather than a learning disability.

b) Finance and Operations: Mrs. Brown reported that she is going through the process of year-end projections and will give a report on them in the near future. The School Com-mittee budget presentation

**with the Town Council is scheduled for May 3rd at 7:00 PM.**

**Mr. Wilkey stated that the second meeting with the Prudence Island residents will take place on Saturday, April 16th, 8:45 AM, on Prudence Island.**

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Dr. Twaddle requested that an amendment be made under the Chairman's Report, second paragraph, to include the words "hometown student" between "declining population." A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to approve the minutes, as amended by Dr. Twaddle. So voted 6-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained.**

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a) Teacher Resignation – Melville School. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to accept with deep regret the resignation of Lisa Levine from the position of Physical Education/Health Teacher at Melville School, effective immediately. So voted 7-0.**

### **5. BUSINESS AGENDA**

**a) Bid Award – PMS Septic. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh**

and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to award the contract for the PMS Septic System replacement to Aquidneck Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$301,584. After much discussion, Mr. Kavanagh rescinded his motion. A motion was made by Mr. Ingraham and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to accept the award, pending funding approval and reallocation of warrant funds by the Town Council as described in the backup provided, dated April 10, 2005. So voted 7-0.

## **6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Finance. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve reductions to the 2005-06 proposed budget, as presented. So voted 6-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained. The following reductions were made:

Blue Cross (\$125,000)

Certified Retirement (\$155,000)

Salaries (\$182,000)

Non-Certified Retirement (\$ 16,360)

Total (\$478,360)

Revised Budget Request Recommended: \$29,520,675 (7.94% increase)

b) Superintendent Selection. Mr. Ingraham stated that fourteen requests for application packages were received. A public forum is scheduled for April 13th, 7:00 PM, at Portsmouth Middle School. We

have a 16-member Selection Review Team, which includes 11 community members who applied in response to the advertisements in the newspapers and on listservs. Mr. Ingraham stated that the team may possibly select the top eight applicants to interview. The interviews are tentatively scheduled for April 25th and 27th, from 3:30 – 9:30 PM. The interviews will take place in Executive Session. The Subcommittee will try to get their recommendation to the School Committee by the first meeting in May. The members of the Selection Team signed a confidentiality agreement developed by Atty. Updegrove.

1) Agenda Item Request – Make-up of Selection Review Team, as requested by Mrs. Melvin: Mrs. Melvin stated she is pleased with the make-up of the team. She stated she was given assurances by Mr. Ingraham that the input from the citizenry would not be overruled by the Administration.

c) Policy. A motion was made by Mr. Ingraham and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to approve the revisions to the by-laws, as presented. The motion was amended by Mr. Ingraham and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to approve the by-laws as a first reading. So voted 7-0.

Ms. Gleason stated that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 28th, 7:00 PM, at the Administration Building. Ethics and charity fundraising will be discussed.

**d) Buildings and Grounds. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the development of architectural designs by Torrado Architects, Inc., in the amount of \$20,000, as presented. So voted 6-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.**

**1) Workshop recommendation for Tuesday, April 19th: A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to hold a special meeting on April 19th at 7:00 PM, to review the architect's renderings. So voted 6-0-1. Ms. Gleason ab-stained.**

**2) Update on Schedule and Funding Options: This item was tabled.**

**e) Negotiations. Mr. Ingraham stated that the Negotiations Subcommittee has been meeting regularly. The next meetings are scheduled for April 28th at 3:30 PM and April 29th from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. Public Session adjourned at 8:38 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patti Cofield**

**Recording Secretary for**



**Douglas Wilkey, Clerk**